Janice K. Brewer Governor

Bryan Martyn Executive Director



Board Members

Walter D. Armer, Jr., Vail, Chair
Maria Baier, State Land Commissioner, Vice Chair
Kay Daggett, Sierra Vista
Alan Everett, Sedona
Larry Landry, Phoenix
William C. Scalzo, Phoenix
Tracey Westerhausen, Phoenix

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING of THE ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT) of THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

Notice is hereby given pursuant to A.R.S. §41-511.22 to members of the Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT) and the general public that the ASCOT will hold a meeting open to the public on Saturday, July 28, 2012, at Black Mesa Ranger Station Conference Room, 2748 AZ Hwy 260, Heber-Overgaard, AZ beginning at 10 am. Attendance at this meeting is available via teleconference by calling 1.877.820.7831 and entering the participant passcode 522515. Items on the Agenda may be discussed out of order, unless they have been specifically set for a time certain. Public comment will be taken. The Committee will discuss and may take action on the following matters:

AGENDA

(The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.)

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF
- C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC The Chair will recognize those wishing to address the Committee. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization and the time allotted by the Chair. Action taken as a result of acknowledgment of comments and suggestions from the public will be limited to directing staff to study or reschedule the matter for further consideration at a later time.

D. ASCOT ACTION ITEMS

- ASCOT Will Review and Approve Minutes from the April 6, 2012 Meeting.
- 2. ASCOT Will Review and May Adopt a Welcome Letter to be Used as an Orientation for New Members ASCOT has developed a "welcome letter" that will be presented for review by the Committee to be used to give new ASCOT members an overview of what the Committee does and what is expected of them.
- 3. ASCOT Will Discuss The Findings of the Subcommittee on A Trail
 Rating System for State Trail System Trails The subcommittee has
 met twice and determined that since State Parks currently provides a
 thorough State Trails System (STS) information packet that identifies all of

- the critical criteria necessary to communicate trail conditions, a rating system would be redundant.
- 4. ASCOT Will Discuss their Potential Involvement in the International Trails Symposium (ITS)— ASCOT will continue the discussion on projects they can do in support of the symposium.
- 5. ASCOT Will Select Two Representatives To Assist Staff In Evaluating Non-Motorized Trail Project Application. State Parks has announced a solicitation for non-motorized trail projects to be funded by the federal Recreational Trail Program. Applications are due by August 17, 2012 and will be rated and a recommendation will be presented to the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Committee (AORCC) in September.
- 6. ASCOT Will Discuss Using The State Parks Volunteer Hours Tracking System. Staff has provided information on how the volunteer hours tracking system can assist ASCOT in recording valuable information about how their efforts can become a financial asset to State Parks.
- 7. ASCOT Will Select a Subcommittee to Review Applications for ASCOT Membership. State Parks has issued a call to the public to fill vacancies on ASCOT beginning January 1, 2013. ASCOT has traditionally selected a subcommittee to review the applications, interview the applicants, and make a recommendation to all of ASCOT.
- E. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Other meeting dates and times may be determined.
 Friday, September 28, 2012 @ Boyce Thompson Arboretum, time TBD

F. ADJOURNMENT

A copy of this agenda and any background material provided to ASCOT Members is available for public inspection at Arizona State Parks, Partnerships Division 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona and on the State Parks website at http://azstateparks.com/committees/ASCOT.html.

For additional information, contact Robert Baldwin at (602) 542-7130.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Arizona State Parks does not discriminate on the basis of a disability regarding admission to public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the State Parks office at (602) 542-4174; or TTY (602) 542-4174. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs, Arizona State Parks

Posted at:

Arizona State Parks

1300 W. Washington, 1st Floor, Phoenix, Arizona

And at: http://azstateparks.com/committees/ASCOT.htm

Janice K. Brewer Governor

Bill Feldmeier Interim Executive Director



Board Members

Walter D. Armer, Jr., Vail, Chair
Maria Baier, State Land Commissioner, Vice Chair
Alan Everett, Sedona
Larry Landry, Phoenix
William C. Scalzo, Phoenix
Tracey Westerhausen, Phoenix
Reese Woodling, Tucson

AZStateParks.com

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING of THE ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT) of THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

Notice is hereby given pursuant to A.R.S. §41-511.22 to members of the Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT) and the general public that the ASCOT will hold a meeting open to the public on Friday, April 6, 2012 beginning at 8:30 am at the BLM-Arizona State Office, One North Central Building, 8th Floor, Phoenix (NE corner of Central and Washington). Visitors may park on the first level of the Parking Garage by entering off of 1st Street (heading north) from Washington Street (ONE WAY heading west). Please use the Visitor Stalls (marked in Green). Have your parking ticket validated at the reception desk on the 8th Floor before going to the conference rooms. Attendance via teleconference is available by request only. Call-in instructions will be provided. Items on the Agenda may be discussed out of order, unless they have been specifically set for a time certain. Public comment will be taken. The Committee will discuss and may take action on the following matters:

AGENDA

(The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.)

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Anna Pfender, Vice Chair, at 8:30am. Roll call: present: Nick Lund, Anna Pfender, Dan Gronseth, Linda Slay, Bill Gibson, Phyllis Ralley (phone), Ryan Domsalla, Laurel Arndt, Laddie Cox, Richard Kesselman, Jackie Keller.

Absent: Reba Grandrud-Wells, Jarod Rogers, Loren Worthington, Lisa Marie Gerdl State Parks staff: Robert Baldwin.

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Introduction of Members and Staff was postponed until later in the meeting.

C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – Those wishing to address the Committee must be recognized by the Chair. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization and the time allotted by the Chair. Action taken as a result of acknowledgment of comments and suggestions from the public will

be limited to directing staff to study or reschedule the matter for further consideration at a later time.

No members of the public were present

D. ASCOT ACTION ITEMS

1. ASCOT Will Review and Approve Minutes from the March 2, 2012 Meeting.

Minutes of the 3/2/12 meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. ASCOT Will Select a New Chair and Vice-Chair and State Trail System Subcommittee Chair – These positions are typically filled at the first meeting of the year, however, because the appointment of new committee members was delayed until March 21, 2012, this is the first meeting with all new members present.

Linda Slay nominated Nick Lund as Chair of ASCOT until a new chair is selected in 2013. Motion seconded by Ryan Domsalla. Motion carried by all present. Linda Slay nominated Anna Pfender as Vice Chair of ASCOT until a new vice chair is selected in 2013. Motion seconded by Ryan Domsalla. Motion carried by all present.

Nick Lund nominated Linda Slay as Chair of the State Trail System Subcommittee until a new Chair is selected in 2013. Motion seconded by Ryan Domsalla. Motion carried by all present.

Nick Lund chaired the meeting at this point, and asked each member present to introduce him/herself.

3. ASCOT Will Review and May Adopt a Welcome Letter to be Used as an Orientation for New Members – ASCOT has developed a "welcome letter" that will be presented for review by the Committee to be used to give new ASCOT members an overview of what the Committee does and what is expected of them. This discussion will serve as orientation for this year's new members.

A potential letter to be used as a new member orientation was reviewed and discussed. After discussion, Dan Gronseth moved that that action on the letter be tabled to a future meeting, so that members may have more time to review and make potential suggested revisions. Jackie Keller seconded the motion, which was approved by all present. Nick volunteered to ask Bob Baldwin to provide each member an electronic copy of the letter, so that they could send potential changes to him, and he would send them to Nick, who would attempt to incorporate the changes into a draft that could be reviewed at the next ASCOT meeting. Members will review the information about ASCOT from the State Parks website, try to make sure the information in the letter compliments the website information, and try to get their

suggested changes to Bob in about a month. Any recommended changes to the website would also be sent to Bob Baldwin.

4. ASCOT Will Discuss and May Recommend Use of A Trail Rating System for State Trail System Trails – The local parks entities that manage recreational trails have been working on a trail rating system to help trail users select trails that are suited to their abilities. ASCOT received a report on the rating system at their March 2, 2012 meeting and may take action to recommend implementation of the system for all State Trail System trails.

A potential trail rating system being considered by Maricopa County was discussed for possible use in the State Trail System. Consensus of ASCOT members was that a rating system is a complex issue, which needs considerable more research and information before a decision could be considered. Dan Gronseth moved that an ASCOT subcommittee be formed to research the issues. Motion seconded by Jackie Keller and approved by all present. Jackie Keller agreed to chair the subcommittee; members: Dan Gronseth, Laddie Cox, Rick Kesselman and Phyllis Ralley. The subcommittee will present a progress report on their findings at the next ASCOT meeting. It was suggested that the committee discuss criteria and guidelines for removing trails from the State Trail System at the next ASCOT meeting.

5. ASCOT Will Discuss the Work Product for 2012 Including Support for the International Trails Symposium (ITS) — Each year ASCOT identifies its major goals for the year and the actions necessary to accomplish those goals. Subcommittees are identified and timelines are established to achieve the goals. The Committee will receive an update on the ITS and may select projects that support the symposium.

ASCOT members discussed potential work products for 2012, and agreed that ASCOT would: A) support the American Trails International Trails Symposium, which is to be held in April, 2013 at the Ft. McDowell Resort, by encouraging people to serve as volunteers at the ITS; and, rather than having an ASCOT workshop during 2012, ASCOT would consider organizing potential workshops and/or symposia or panel discussions for the ITS, including a possible workshop on grants & funding, a panel/audience discussion of issues involved in trail rating systems, and/or a workshop on trail design and maintenance (which might be through a partnership with Volunteers of Arizona). It was noted that Tom Fitzgerald would be making a presentation about progress to date on the ITS at the joint motorized/nonmotorized committee meeting in the afternoon, and that members could ask Tom questions at that time, and ASCOT could revisit how the committee might support the ITS at its next meeting, which will be after the ITS call for programs has been issued. B) ASCOT members volunteered to serve on the Subcommittee for State Trail System nominations: Linda Slay, chair; Anna Pfender, Rick Kesselman, Jackie Keller, Dan Gronseth. C) Members also volunteered for the Subcommittee that considers

nominations for membership in ASCOT starting in 2013: Anna Pfender, chair; Laddie Cox, Dan Gronseth, Bill Gibson.

6. Staff Will Present Rating Criteria and Other Requirements for a Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Program Grant Solicitation. — Staff presented some suggestions to ASCOT at their March 2, 2012 regarding a grant solicitation for non-motorized trail projects and got some input from the Committee. Staff will present the proposed process and consider any final suggestions from ASCOT before implementing the solicitation in May 2012.

Robert Baldwin, State Parks staff, presented rating criteria and other requirements for a nonmotorized Recreational Trails Program grant solicitation. ASCOT members made some suggestions for this grant solicitation program at the last meeting. No further recommendations were made at the current meeting.

E. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – ASCOT will identify meeting dates and locations for the remainder of 2012.

Next meetings for 2012 were agreed upon: Sat, July 28, 9am, possibly at the Black Mesa Ranger District Office in Heber (to be confirmed by Ryan Domsalla); Fri, September 28, 9am, possibly at the Boyce-Thompson Arboretum near Superior (to be confirmed by Nick Lund).

F. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:20p by Nick Lund.



Title: ASCOT Will Review and May Adopt a Welcome

Letter to be Used as an Orientation for New

Members

Staff Lead: Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs

Date:

July 28, 2012

Recommended Motion(s):

None.

Status to Date:

The ASCOT Executive Committee has been working on a "welcome letter" to be sent to new ASCOT members to give them some background into the business of ASCOT and the expectations of ASCOT members. The letter has been distributed to ASCOT members for their input. The latest version is attached. ASCOT will discuss how to use the letter and may make additional changes to the letter. A motion to accept the letter with instructions on how it will be used may be offered.

Time Frame:

Timelines and actions may be settled by a motion.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Activities in support of the advisory committees are part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

Partnerships: To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

None.

Attachments:

Attachment D2 - Draft ASCOT Welcome Letter.

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund					
Ryan Domsalla				L	
Laurel Arndt					
Lisa Marie Gerdl					
Bill Gibson					
Reba Grandrud					
Dan Gronseth					
Jarod Rogers					
Jackie Keller					
Anna Pfender					
Phyllis Ralley					
Linda Slay					
Richard Kesselman					
Loren Worthington					
Laddie Cox					
Approve	Deny		Amen	nd 🗆	
Amend as follows:					

Committee Questions/Comments:

Arizona State Committee on Trails Appointees:

Welcome to ASCOT. You will find your term on ASCOT extremely interesting and educational. You were selected for ASCOT because you are passionate about trails and have expressed that passion through actions, assignments and associations. Your service to the State is sincerely appreciated. You will be more productive and find your time on ASCOT more enjoyable if you have an accurate understanding of ASCOT's roles and mandates.

ASCOT is a center of AZ trails advocacy as an advisory committee to Arizona State Parks. AZ State Parks plays a leadership role in promotion of all trails in Arizona, regardless of location or managing government agency. AZ State Parks is responsible for trails within the AZ State Parks system and on AZ rural and urban lands. ASCOT supports and assists AZ State Parks in the mission of promoting trails in Arizona.

What ASCOT Is Mandated To Do

Recommend AZ Trails For Acceptance into the Arizona State Trails System

Trail grant projects are submitted annually, including a detailed project description, which ASCOT evaluates for suitability to be included into the STS and recommends those to the State Parks Board. Before the Heritage Fund was swept, trails had to be accepted into the STS to be eligible for Heritage Grants. Currently, acceptance into the STS will garner points in applying for existing RTP funds.

Conduct a Joint Annual Meeting with the Off Highway Vehicle Advisory Group

A mandated annual joint meeting of ASCOT & OHVAG is a part of the trail grant oversight process. A regular ASCOT meeting is usually held on the same day as the joint meeting. One purpose of this meeting is for both groups to receive updates from State Parks staff on the status of trail grant/funding programs, including where funding is being spent. This meeting is mandatory for Arizona's eligibility to receive Federal RTP funds.

Recommend New Members

Each year the term of a number of ASCOT members ends. New member applications can be received from paid land management professionals, volunteers representing trail organizations, or citizens-at-large. First-time applicants and previous ASCOT members may apply. ASCOT recommends top applicants to the State Parks Board.

ASCOT WELCOME LETTER

What ASCOT Elects to Do

Conduct Periodic Meetings Each Year

ASCOT generally conducts several general meetings annually. ASCOT member updates about what is going on with trails in their part of the State or organization are valuable parts of the meetings.

Provide Networking And Information Sharing Opportunities

Trail-related networking and information sharing opportunities during meetings and other opportunities the members have to talk are valuable aspects of ASCOT. Review of proposed trails and members also serves networking and education purposes, as ASCOT members learn about trails, trail organizations, and trail community members.

Sponsor and Conduct Trail Education Workshops

ASCOT workshops serve an educational purpose, by bringing in speakers on various trail related topics, and a networking purpose, by bringing together trail advocates/ professionals from organizations and government agencies. While education provided in these workshops is valuable, the networking opportunities are invaluable. Nowhere else in the State is there an opportunity for members of the trails community to network with others from many different trail organizations and geographic locations.

Promote the Arizona State Trail System

The Arizona State Trails Systems (ASTS), which started in the 1970's, designates best trails in AZ. Urban & rural trails may quality for ASTS. In 1990, Heritage Fund legislation specified that a trail had to be in the ASTS to be eligible for grant funds. ASCOT works with State Parks to promote ASTS trails.

Function as a Liaison Between The Trail Community and AZ State Parks

State Parks is the lead organization on a majority of AZ trail issues, training, funding and support, regardless which land management agency manages a particular trail. State Parks staff works with ASCOT to coordinate various trail efforts and to educate the trails community about State Parks responsibilities and goals.

Conforming with AZ Laws

ASCOT Cannot Advocate As A Body

ASCOT is part of State government. The fact that ASCOT members are unpaid volunteers or are on the payroll of other government agencies, not paid State of Arizona employees, doesn't negate the fact ASCOT members are working for State government. Advocacy is when a government body takes a position on a subject and tries to convince the public to support that position. Whatever position an entity takes on an issue, regardless how central that issue is to the mission of that organization,

often creates differences of opinion; so government entities like ASCOT are not allowed to serve an advocacy role. Individual members of ASCOT may advocate for an issue; however the ASCOT name cannot be associated with that advocacy.

ASCOT Acts in a Timely Manner under AZ Open Meeting Laws

Under AZ Open Meeting Laws the only topics that can be discussed in a meeting are those placed on an advance published agenda. The only thing that can be done with a new topic is to agree to put it on a following agenda and talk about it at a later meeting. So get important topics placed on the agenda in advance. Any member of ASCOT can place topics on the agenda and doing so only requires a quick e-mail or phone call to the ASCOT chair or person at State Parks who is putting together the agenda. Do NOT send the topic directly to all ASCOT members to determine if it is a worthy topic for inclusion on the agenda as this can be a violation of Open Meeting laws. Members should not mail, email or discuss ASCOT topics with other members outside ASCOT meetings, as this could also violate Open Meeting Laws.

Get The Most Out Of Your Service on ASCOT

Attend As Many Meetings As Possible

It is sometimes inconvenient to physically attend ASCOT meetings. You can attend meetings by teleconference, which is sometimes necessary to achieve a quorum. However, many opportunities to network and learn what is going on in the trail community occur outside formal meetings, at lunch, or around a campfire.

Take Full Advantage of Networking Opportunities

Being an ASCOT member and attending ASCOT functions provides opportunities to network with other members of the AZ trail community. Take full advantage of the opportunities to network because relationships you build will be much of the value you take away from ASCOT after your term of service.

Serve on the Membership Review and Trail Nomination Committees

By participating in the trail selection processes you learn about new trails, about land management agencies that nominate new trails, and about types of work involved in developing trails. Through the member review process you are acquainted with trail organizations and applicant's histories; so participation is a form of trail networking.

Help Organize and Attend ASCOT Workshops

Organizing a workshop allows you to help plan topics and to get to know the speakers, who are often known experts in their field. It is highly recommended that all ASCOT members attend the workshops, as topics are varied and often presented by trail experts, and workshops are an excellent networking opportunity.

Get to know incoming ASCOT members, make them feel welcome, and help them get up to speed on what ASCOT is & how it operates. The quicker you build relationships with new members, the more productive new members will be. When you begin your term on ASCOT, some members are serving their last year. You may only attend a couple of meetings with them before they leave; so make extra effort to get to know them, which will often give you networking contacts after their term expires.

Propose Ideas That Are Within ASCOT's Ability To Make Happen

ASCOT is an advisory committee to the board of a State government department; has no direct control over any trail organization support, funding or training; and does not have budget or staff. When you have an idea to propose, ask yourself if the idea can be implemented with current ASCOT resources and whether the Committee can provide the necessary volunteer support to implement the idea.

Summary

- ASCOT is a statewide trail organization that touches on all trail issues across all trail organizations and land management agencies in Arizona.
- ASCOT plays an integral role in recommending trails, trail grant applications, and new ASCOT members to the State Parks Board.
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Get To Know Incoming and Outgoing ASCOT Members

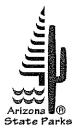
Get to know incoming ASCOT members, make them feel welcome, and help them get up to speed on what ASCOT is & how it operates. The quicker you build relationships with new members, the more productive new members will be. When you begin your term on ASCOT, some members are serving their last year. You may only attend a couple of meetings with them before they leave; so make extra effort to get to know them, which will often give you networking contacts after their term expires.

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Title: ASCOT Will Discuss The Findings of the

Subcommittee on A Trail Rating System for State

Trail System Trails

Staff Lead: Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs

Date: July 28, 2012

Recommended Motion(s):

None.

Status to Date:

The local parks entities that manage recreational trails have been working on a trail rating system to help trail users select trails that are suited to their abilities. ASCOT received a report on the rating system at their April 6, 2012 meeting. A subcommittee was formed to investigate the pros/cons of trail rating systems and the results of litigation involving this issue. The subcommittee has met twice and determined that since State Parks currently provides a thorough State Trails System (STS) information packet that identifies all of the critical criteria necessary to communicate trail conditions, a rating system would be redundant. Also, since the majority of trails in the STS belong to federal and other governmental agencies, implementing a system-wide trails rating process would not be possible due to some agencies' policies. The subcommittee suggests that ASCOT should develop an approach to assist land managers with making existing STS trail information available to the public, particularly at the trail locations.

Time Frame:

ASCOT will determine the priority for any project that would accomplish this goal.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Activities in support of the advisory committees are part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

Partnerships: To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

None.

Attachments:

Attachment D3a – Minutes from May 2, 2012 meeting.

Attachment D3b – Minutes from the June 13, 2012 meeting.

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

Committee Members Nick Lund Ryan Domsalla Laurel Arndt Lisa Marie Gerdl Bill Gibson Reba Grandrud Dan Gronseth Jarod Rogers Jackie Keller Anna Pfender Phyllis Ralley	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Linda Slay Richard Kesselman Loren Worthington Laddie Cox					
Approve □ Amend as follows:	Deny		Amend		

Committee Questions/Comments:

ATTACHMENT D3a

The ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS of the ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD Trails Rating/Information Systems Subcommittee

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting of May 2, 2012

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Jackie Keller, Chair Dan Gronseth Laddie Cox Richard Kesselman

Subcommittee Members Absent:

Phyllis Ralley

B. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None present.

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. Meeting Overview: The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of adopting a trail rating/information system for use on all State Trails System trails. The agenda items were as listed below.
 - Define trail rating system versus trail informational system.
 - Identify values and issues of rating and informational systems.
 - Review current trail rating/informational systems
 - Discuss the types of trail rating and informational systems subcommittee members have investigated.
 - Identify whether they are implemented or published systems.
 - Identify opportunities and constraints of rating/informational systems for landowners/ managers, specific user groups, and the public-at-large.
 - Review of trail litigation case studies; discuss areas or items that may have a high risk liability.
 - Identify areas for further investigation and discussion for next subcommittee meeting.

2. Trail Rating/Informational System Examples:

- a. Each subcommittee member had researched different types of trail rating/informational systems and shared copies of them with the group. Examples from a wide spectrum of user groups and varying geographies were provided; the following systems were reviewed and discussed.
 - · American Trails
 - Chilliwack, BC (Canada)
 - City of Phoenix
 - Colorado Association of 4WD Clubs Rating System
 - · Colorado '14ers'

- Cruise Moab Trail Rating System
- East Meadow Trail, Heron Lake State Park Trails Brochure (funded by FHA Recreational Trails Program)
- International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA)
- The National Recreation Trails Database
- The Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP)
- TTORA Trail Rating System (Northern CA)
- b. Each entity provided ratings geared for their type(s) of users (i.e., mountain bikers, hikers, skiers, 4WD, etc.) and most qualified their ratings with disclaimers that the "criteria should be combined with personal judgment and trail-user input...", and that the ratings focused on technical challenge—not level of physical exertion, climate/seasonal constraints (ratings change according to weather/seasons), or abilities of users (e.g., what is difficult for one user, may be easy for another).
- c. Also discussed was the fact that any given length of trail may have a range of rating levels from easy to very difficult, so how would it be rated overall—moderate?—which would mislead users and place some in potentially hazardous conditions that they are not prepared for.
- d. The IMBA provides an overview of risk management and liability for mountain biking, which applies to all types of trails, and includes types of trail-related lawsuits mostly related to negligence. Specifically "duty of care" and "breach of that duty" identifies situations where an organization could have reasonably foreseen what an action (or inaction) would result in, or if an organization failed to perform a required task such as manage or maintain a trail. Examples of lawsuits can be found on their website.
- e. Based on this analysis, and the fact that levels of ratings varying by the type of user, the subcommittee identified that what is important—is the criteria that is communicated to the public. Also important is the consistency in the criteria and the manner in which it is communicated.
- f. The subcommittee agreed that the criteria should be based on the common components of a trail—grade (elevational changes), width (tread and corridor), distance (length), cross slope, type of surface, obstacles, water availability, emergency assistance availability, and altitude.

3. Trail Rating Constraints:

- a. The subcommittee agreed that trail rating systems have the following constraints:
 - Subjectivity in ratings
 - Conflicts between rating systems
 - Vary according to user types
 - Weather and season dependent
 - Land manager/owner policies (private, public, federal, etc.)
 - Available resources to monitor and maintain the rating system (i.e., the reoccurring assessment of trail conditions)
- b. While rating systems seem to have some inherent challenges, it was agreed that a description of trail conditions was the most important factor to communicate to all users.

ASCOT Subcommittee – Trails Rating Systems Meeting #1 May 2, 2012 ATTACHMENT D32

4. Action Items:

- a. The subcommittee agreed to review additional trail rating/informational materials (including the proposed City of Phoenix rating system and the Arizona State Trails Guide published in 2003) for the next subcommittee meeting to discuss what the subcommittee's recommendations would be to ASCOT.
- 5. **Meeting Adjournment:** The Chair called for adjournment of the meeting, upon hearing no objections to the adjournment of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

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The ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS of the ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD Trails Rating/Information Systems Subcommittee

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting of June 13, 2012

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Jackie Keller, Chair Laddie Cox Phyllis Ralley Richard Kesselman

Subcommittee Members Absent:

Dan Gronseth

B. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None present.

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. **Meeting Overview:** The purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussion of the possibility of adopting a trail rating/information system for use on all State Trails System trails. The agenda items were as listed below.
 - Review trail rating systems versus trail informational systems.
 - Review values and issues of rating and informational systems.
 - Review pertinent trail data necessary to communicate to the general public.
 - Review example trail informational systems.
 - Review issues and concerns of landowners, managers, and user groups.
 - Discuss whether or not the Subcommittee should contact landowners/managers for input.

2. Trail Rating/Informational System Examples:

a. The meeting started by reviewing the Arizona State Trails Guide published in 2003. All subcommittee members present agreed that the guide is a valuable informational tool that is not being utilized to its fullest extent. It contains the critical information of the trail conditions that allows a user to determine their own ability to safely use it.

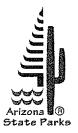
3. Trail Rating/Informational System Recommendation:

- a. The subcommittee agreed that the Arizona State Parks already has a good trails informational guide that addresses much of the criteria that needs to be communicated to the public. This, in addition to the majority (~84%) of trails within the State System belonging to five public land manager/owners (USFS, NPS, AZ State Parks, City of Phoenix, BLM, and Maricopa County) indicates it would take a lot of resources to try to implement a system that would be acceptable to each entity's policies, if acceptable at all.
- b. Other ideas included social media opportunities (e.g., tweeting trail conditions, facebook pages, blogs, etc.).

ATTACHMENT D36

ASCOT Subcommittee – Trails Rating Systems Meeting #2 June 13, 2012

- c. The recommendations of the subcommittee to ASCOT are:
 - Help the land managers/owners promote their trails.
 - Help land managers and owners get the existing information out to the public. Use available funding to get the information on websites, brochures, kiosks, etc.
 - Update the Arizona State Trails Guide, the list of trails, and the trail criteria to distribute.
 - Appoint a subcommittee to develop an approach and a strategic plan for assisting land managers distribute trail information.
- d. The subcommittee will present their findings to the ASCOT at the July 28th meeting.
- 4. **Meeting Adjournment:** The Chair called for adjournment of the meeting, upon hearing no objections to the adjournment of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.



Title:

ASCOT Will Discuss their Potential Involvement in

the International Trails Symposium (ITS)

Staff Lead: Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs

Date:

July 28, 2012

Recommended Motion(s):

None.

Status to Date:

ASCOT will continue the discussion on projects they can do in support of the symposium. The ITS Program Committee has asked ASCOT to consider the following two projects:

- 1) CEU's Take ownership of research, organization and all other details for providing CEU credits for the program presentations. We anticipate there will be program proposals which would fall into CEU territory for APA, NRPA and ASLA.
- 2) Speaker and room monitors Take ownership for ensuring speakers and room assignments operate as scheduled for the symposium.

Time Frame:

The ITS will occur in April 2013 and supporting projects will be completed prior to and during that event. Call for presentations has recently gone out and the Symposium organizers have asked volunteers to sign up as soon as possible for various functions at the Symposium.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Activities in support of the advisory committees are part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

Partnerships: To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

None.

Attachments:

None.

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund					
Ryan Domsalla					
Laurel Arndt					
Lisa Marie Gerdl					
Bill Gibson					
Reba Grandrud					
Dan Gronseth					
Jarod Rogers					
Jackie Keller					
Anna Pfender					
Phyllis Ralley					
Linda Slay					
Richard Kesselman					
Loren Worthington					
Laddie Cox					
Approve	Deny		Amend	d 🗆	
Amend as follows:					

Committee Questions/Comments:



Title: ASCOT Will Select Two Representatives To Assist

Staff In Evaluating Non-Motorized Trail Project

Application

Staff Lead: Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs

Date: July 28, 2012

Recommended Motion(s);	
I move to select	and	as representatives for
ASCOT in the process of	rating non-motorized trail gra	ant applications.

Status to Date:

On July 3, 2012 State Parks announced a solicitation for non-motorized trail projects to be funded from the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Grant applications are due by August 17, 2012. ASCOT provided input for the evaluation process at their March 2, 2012 meeting and reviewed the proposed application process at their April 6, 2012 meeting. This is the first time that RTP funds have been offered for competitive non-motorized trail projects and the first time non-motorized trail grants have been offered since 2008. The applications must be reviewed for eligibility and rated to determine priority in awarding available funds.

Time Frame:

Staff will provide grant application information to the selected ASCOT representatives during the week of August 20th with instructions and rating forms. They will be asked to review the projects and determine their own rating score based on the instructions. Up to twenty applications may be received and it could take up to one hour to read and evaluate each application. The selected representatives must be available on Thursday, September 6th to meet with staff for the final review and consensus rating. Depending on the number of applications, this could take most of the day beginning at 9am. This recommendation will be presented to the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC) during the week of September 17th for their review and approval. The ASCOT representatives are not required to be present at the AORCC meeting.

The selected representatives will be asked to report to ASCOT at the September 28th meeting on how the process worked.

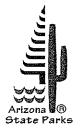
Staff and Financial Resources:

Solicitation, selection, and administration of grant projects are part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

Partnerships: To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Board Actions: None.								
Attachments: None.								
Public Comment/Questions re Motion:								
Committee Members Nick Lund Ryan Domsalla Laurel Arndt Lisa Marie Gerdl Bill Gibson Reba Grandrud Dan Gronseth Jarod Rogers Jackie Keller Anna Pfender Phyllis Ralley Linda Slay Richard Kesselman Loren Worthington Laddie Cox	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments			
Approve \square	Deny		Amen	d□				
Amend as follows:								
Committee Questions/C	ommeni	ts:						



Title: ASCOT Will Discuss Using The State Parks

Volunteer Hours Tracking System

Staff Lead: Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs

Date: July 28, 2012

Recommended Motion(s):

Status to Date:

ASCOT made an inquiry to staff about recording volunteer hours for reporting purposes. State Parks has a web-based system where volunteers can record their hours. It requires a registration process and all ASCOT members would need to participate to gather accurate information. ASCOT must determine if they want to participate.

Time Frame:

An ASCOT decision to participate in the system would initiate the registration process as soon as possible. Upon registration participants could enter hours served from the beginning of the calendar year.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Supporting the advisory groups is part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

Partnerships: To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

None.

Attachments:

None.

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Deny		Amen	d □	

Committee Questions/Comments:



Title: ASCOT Will Select a Subcommittee to Review

Applications for ASCOT Membership

Staff Lead: Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs

Date: July 28, 2012

Recommended Motion(s):

I move to select a Membership Subcommittee consisting of five (5) members to review new member applications for 2013 positions and consider their recommendation at the September 28, 2012 ASCOT meeting prior to making a recommendation from ASCOT to the State Parks Board.

I move to appoint the following ASCOT members who have agreed to serve on the Membership Subcommittee:

Status to Date:

On July 16, 2012 State Parks issued a call to the public for volunteers to fill five (5) vacancies on ASCOT beginning January 1, 2013. ASCOT membership is defined in bylaws adopted by the Committee and approved by the Parks Board, and is comprised of representatives from trail user groups (up to eight), government agencies (up to eight) and citizens-at-large (up to four). Members serve three-year terms. The current composition of the Committee will allow the applicants for 2013 positions to be selected as follows: up to one (1) citizen at large, up to four (4) from governmental agencies, and/or up to five (5) from trail user groups.

Time Frame:

Applications will be due at the State Parks office by close of business on August 17th and State Parks will provide those to the subcommittee members soon after that. The ASCOT subcommittee will schedule a date to interview the applicants and will prepare a recommendation for the ASCOT meeting on September 28th.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Supporting the advisory groups is part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

Partnerships: To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

None.

Attachments:

Attachment D7 – State Parks Call for Volunteers Announcement and Application Form.

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

Committee Members Nick Lund Ryan Domsalla Laurel Arndt Lisa Marie Gerdl Bill Gibson Reba Grandrud Dan Gronseth Jarod Rogers Jackie Keller Anna Pfender Phyllis Ralley Linda Slay Richard Kesselman Loren Worthington Laddie Cox	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Approve □ Amend as follows:	Deny		Amen	d 🗆	

Committee Questions/Comments:

Arizona State Parks Board Seeking Applicants for Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT)

The Arizona State Parks Board is seeking non-motorized recreation enthusiasts from throughout Arizona to serve as volunteer advisors.

The Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) represents non-motorized trail interests and serves in an advisory capacity to the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission and the Parks Board. The overall mission of the State Trails Program is to promote, develop, and preserve non-motorized trail opportunities throughout the state for mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians, and water trail users. The Parks Board appoints ASCOT members to three-year terms and there are five (5) openings on ASCOT.

The Parks Board will make appointments at their November 2012 meeting and those selected will begin serving on January 1, 2013. Applications and additional information about ASCOT are available at:

www.azstateparks.com/committees/ASCOT.html

The deadline for submitting an application is 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 17, 2012. Please read the application carefully and direct inquiries to Robert Baldwin, Recreational Trails Grants Coordinator at 602.542.7130 or rbb2(at)azstateparks.gov.

ATTACHMENT D7

ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT) 2013 APPLICATION

Arizona State Parks Board appoints the 15-member, volunteer Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT). ASCOT advises the State Parks Board and staff on the planning, development, funding, maintenance, and promotion of nonmotorized trails in Arizona. ASCOT members represent a variety of non-motorized trails interests and geographical regions within Arizona. Each individual is appointed to a three-year term. ASCOT meets approximately four times per year; twice during the week and twice on the weekend at locations around the state. Subcommittees of ASCOT meet more frequently throughout the year to accomplish goals. Members are expected to be active in the various Subcommittees and commit time between quarterly meetings to help accomplish the goals of ASCOT.

ASCOT members derive from a representative mix of governmental agencies, trails user groups and citizens-at-large. At present, the committee is seeking to fill five (5) positions that will be vacant on January 1, 2013. Selected candidates will meet the affiliation requirements below.

PLEASE CONSIDER MY APPLICATION FOR SERVICE AS AN ASCOT VOLUNTEER MEMBER

1 411 14	iailie.	rieler to be caned.			
Home	e Address:	Business Address:			
Home Telephone:		Business/Cell Telephone:			
E-Mai	il Address:				
Count	ty of Residence:				
AFFILI/	ATION REQUIREMENT (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX)				
	*Governmental Agency (up to 4 vacancies)	Identify agency:			
	*Trail User Group or Association (up to 5 vacancies	s) Identify Group or Association:			
	Citizen-at-large (one vacancies) NOTE: If you are a	a member of an organization, do not apply for citizen-at-large.			
	0 , 0 ,	official letter stating that they are an employee of the agency or resent the agency or organization on ASCOT if appointed to serve.			

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Euil Name:

- 1. Completed application form.
- 2. A letter describing your interest and motivation for wanting to volunteer for the Arizona State Committee on Trails. Briefly address any applicable items below:
- 3. Briefly address the following:
 - Education, training and/or experience
 - Career highlights:

Describe significant related experience, civic and professional activities, elected

offices, prior organizational experience/leadership, and career achievements.

Drofor to be called:

· Personal pursuits:

Describe your primary trail activities and interests, geographical areas within Arizona

you are familiar with, and any other volunteer experiences and relevant items about

vourself that you would like to share.

4. SEE ABOVE FOR AFFILIATION LETTER REQUIREMENT

COMPLETED APPLICATION, LETTER OF INTEREST, AND AFFILIATION SUPPORT LETTER ARE DUE AUGUST 17, 2012 BY 5:00 P.M. AT:

Arizona State Parks
ATTN: Robert Baldwin, Recreational Trails Grants Coordinator
1300 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007